GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1609
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2006
CULTIVABLE LAND
Jha Shri Raghunath

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 181 million hectare of land is cultivable of the total geographical area of 320 million hectare;

(b) if so, the reasons for cultivating less land; and

(c) the quantum of uncultivated land that has been converted into cultivable land during the last five years and how much money has been incurred thereon

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): Out of total geographical area of 328.73 million ha. in the country, 182.92 million ha. is cultivable in 2002-03. The cultivable land consists of net sown area 132.86 million ha., current fallows 21.53 million ha. fallow land other than current fallows 11.68 million ha., culturable waste 13.49 million ha. and land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves 3.36 million ha.

There is marginal decline in agricultural land in the last 5 years from 183.63 million ha. in 1998- 99 to 182 million ha. in 2002-03. During the same period, land under non − agricultural use has increased from 22.80 million ha. to 24.25 million ha. indicating that much of the increase in non agricultural land appears to have been achieved by developing uncultivable land/degraded land.

Government of India is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes for development of degraded lands for increasing the productive potential. Under these programmes, an area of 1.81 million ha. has been developed with expenditure of Rs.4952.26 crore in last five years (2000-01 to 2004-05) as per details given below:

(Physical in lakh ha. & Financial in Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	Programme	Achievements	
		Physical	Financial
1	National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)	19.69	883.25
2.	Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS)	0.95	69.44
3.	Soil Conservation Scheme in River Valley Project & Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR)	9.84	597.57
4	Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)	3.11	93.47
5	Integrated Watershed Development Programme (IWDP)	43.61	1164.00
6.	Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)	64.93	1244.72

7. Desert Development Programme (DDP)	38.91	899.81
Total	181.04	4952.26